

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a metal material defining at least a portion of the
suspension;
an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and
a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight
ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the
same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal
material, the adhesive layer being thinner than .00025
cm~~the composite material~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the
metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the
adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load
beam.

3. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal
material defines a base area of the suspension and the adhesive
and the composite material are positioned on the base area.

4. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal
material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the
composite material defines a load beam having a second bonding
area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area
and the second bonding area.

5. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal
material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the
composite material defines a base area having a second bonding
area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area
and the second bonding area.

6. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

7. (Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.

8. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

9. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

10. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.

11. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

12. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

13. (Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025 cm~~the layer of metal~~.

14. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15. (Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

17.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21.(Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:
a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
stiffener means formed of a composite material for
increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the
suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body
by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than .00025
cm~~the layer of metal~~.

22.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24. (Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25. (Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.

26. (New) A suspension comprising:

- a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;
- an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and
- a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the adhesive that is bonded to the metal material such that the adhesive does not absorb a significant amount of energy during bending of the suspension.

27. (New) The suspension of claim 26 wherein the adhesive has a thickness of less than .00025 cm.

28. (New) A suspension comprising:

- a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and
- a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by an adhesive layer having a thickness such that the adhesive layer does not dampen motion of the suspension.

29. (New) The suspension of claim 28 wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness of less than .00025 cm.